

THE HISTORY OF FOX HUNTING IN ENGLAND FROM THE TIME OF ELIZABETH TO KING EDWARD

**Heroes of Hunting Field
Have Helped Make
England's Fame.**

**ENGLISH TYPES
SUIT THE SHIRES**

**Breeding for Conformation and
Color Has Injured the Fox-
hound—Thomas Assheton
Smith, the Father of
Sport and His
Career.**

By James Marshall Henry.

From the time of William the Conqueror to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the shadow of progress moved but slowly upon the hunting dial.

During the long and happy occupation of the English throne by that illustrious huntress, the golden age of field sport began to dawn and has continued, with a spirit and grandeur of which the English hunting field alone can boast, down past the coronation of King Edward VII., whose royal patronage continues to advance the interest of the nobility in what has long since become the national sport of England.

Nor did the clouds of civil and foreign war, which darkened the land during a period when the pages of history were dyed in crimson, ever cast a gloom over the spirit of the English sportsman in pursuit of game with horse and hounds.

"Then peers grew proud in horsemanship, to excel, Newmarket's glory rose, as Britain's fell."

While the noblemen of France were riding to the plume of Henry of Navarre and relegating the hound to dumb forgetfulness a prey, the hunting horn in England sounded merrily in war as in peace and her huntsmen pursued the chase as relentlessly as they pursued the enemy.

Beginning of Fox Hunting.

There is no exact date when one can say fox-hunting began. Hunting the stag had been a popular sport in France and in England for centuries before the rise of the Somersets, and its decline, which was due to the increase of enclosures for the protection of deer against lawless deer-stealers, marks the beginning of fox-hunting in England.

Of all inventions sought out by upright man to prolong his earthly happiness, riding to hounds is at once the most sportsmanly and manly, and certainly the most English. It is the expenditure of art in the creation of such symmetry, grace, and strength as moves and has its being in the horse—the noblest, perhaps the most beautiful of God's lower creation—that enables the rider to follow at the heels of the hounds over a rough and uneven country.

And surely man is twice fortunate in having for his pleasure another animal which is distinguished from all other brutes by a hunting intelligence, refined sense of smell, musical utterance, and the lung and limb power to successfully pursue the fleet stag and the cunning fox.

As in England the hunting field has been a valuable promoter of the best quality of horse, it is a requirement for speed, endurance, and that training without which no hunter is capable of high class performance—where blood and intelligence tell, regardless of handicaps and jockeying—so has riding to hounds, which requires the steady hand, quick eye, cool judgment, and unflinching nerve, brought forth a class of sportsmen whose feats in the saddle are destined to remain unequalled by succeeding generations of any country.

The English Red Fox.

Wherever the English language is spoken, the deeds of English horses of the chase will continue to delight and inspire the youth of all nations and to such sportsmen are not only indebted for our love of fox-hunting, our fox-hounds, the type of horse best qualified for cross-country riding, the steady and quick eye, cool judgment, and unflinching nerve, brought forth a class of sportsmen whose feats in the saddle are destined to remain unequalled by succeeding generations of any country.

Imitation Sportsmen.

Whatever criticism may be justly pronounced upon the class of scarlet coated gentlemen of the present day who pour out of London in season to Market Harborough and other fashionable hunting resorts, whose presence in the woods is only for the purpose of impressing the listener with the importance of their knowledge, when the chase is on, present all the confusion of a Bull Run without its disaster. English, in our opinion, is a grandstand play, but for a keen enjoyment of every stage of the game from start to finish.

Such sportsmen ride to hunt, and are with the hounds from the "gone away," ringing out clear as a bell in the morning air, followed by the dash of the hounds as they rush through the gorse to catch up the key-note of their leader, and in a glorious burst of speed, riding with melody, sweep across the meadow and over the hill upon a scent breast high, to the last effort that changes scent to view and ends the life of a sinking fox.

Youthful Tyro.

To the latter, we are indebted for an inspiration which will last as long as the sport of fox-hunting continues to delight the devotees of the foxhound; while to the former belongs the credit of a certain retrograde in fox-hunting which has been gradually taking place in England for the last quarter of a century, and if not checked by a revival of the spirit of the past, will end in a fashionable absurdity that can never escape the lash of a sportsman's whip until it escapes his observation. A reasonable excuse may be made for the youthful tyro, who, as Lord Byron describes, in riding, "He broke; 'tis true, some statues of the laws."

Of hunting—their sagacious youth is frail; Heed o'er the hounds, it may be, now and then, And once o'er several country gentlemen.

But no beggarly apology will answer for a persistent transgression of the law which regulates the conduct of a gentleman in the hunting field.

As a matter of fact he who had not



STARTING OUT ON A HUNT.

the common sense to refrain, has generally lacked the wit to extricate himself from a very unenviable position.

"Pray, gentlemen, restrain your pace. Do give the hounds a little space. Just room to turn; pray check your reins. Then catch them, if you can, again."

From the day when Thomas Hownes' first pack of foxhounds walked the flags at Steepleton, the M. F. H. has had to contend with an undesirable element in the field who "hunt to ride," and as the number of good fox-hunters decreased, the class of sportsmen have ennobled upon the hunting ground, which explains in a few words why fox-hunting in England is not exactly what it used to be.

Despite a growing influence which is

and quality, regardless of color, we will have to go back to the eighteenth century. Wythe Melville has described just such a one in "Batchelor."

"On the straightest of legs and the roundest of feet, With ribs like a frigate his timbers to meet."

With a fashion and fling and a form so complete. That to see him dance over the flags was a treat. But fashion and form without nose is in vain. And in March, or midwinter, storm, sunshine or rain. When the line has been fouled, or the sheep leave a stain, His fox he accounts for again and again. He guides them in covert, he leads them

him down before a field that gallops ahead, ready at any time to locate the fox running over an open country.

It is extremely doubtful if any family of sportsmen kept a pack of hounds exclusively for hunting the fox before the Somersets, or that the fox was hunted by any member of that family earlier than by the first Marquis around Ragland Castle.

It is necessary to consult other evidence than what is related by Chaffin in his reminiscences of "Cranborne Chase" of Thomas Hownes' pack in 1730, and we turn to the kennel books of the oldest established hunt to find when foxhounds were introduced and fox-hunting became a popular sport in the Shires.

In 1728 there were thirty couples of harriers and six couples of deerhounds at Badminton. Lord Bath borrowed a draft of these hounds in 1736 for the purpose of improving his breed, and the same year Badminton sought new blood in a hound named "Caesar" from the kennels of Lord "Padgett."

Beaufort the Pioneer.

It was not, however, before Henry, the fifth Duke of Beaufort, came into possession of Badminton. In 1762, that the hounds of that establishment were entered exclusively to the fox.

A story is told of how the Duke first began fox-hunting. He was returning one day from an unsuccessful stag hunt, and throwing his hounds into Silk Wood, ousted a fox which gave such a great run that he staidled the pack down from deer, and helped to found one of the greatest of national sports.

The Beaufort hounds were being hunted after the fox about this time, and the fame of Mr. Meynell had spread over the Shires. In the season of 1801 Badminton's "Topper" had made such a reputation in the field that he was borrowed by Beaufort, and from this stock sprung the famous "Rallywood," "Wentworth," "Gambler," "Dexter," and "Dasher," whose blood is represented in every kennel in England.

Great Huntsman.

Crowding at the heels of Badminton and Beaufort came a long list of hunting establishments, with such huntsmen as Goosery, Goodall, the Smiths, Dale of Brocklesby and Frank Gillard, who with Will Long, made the English foxhound what he is to-day.

The various colors we find in foxhounds of the eighteenth century are inherited from the colors of the deer hound and the harrier. Until breeding for a certain color became a fashionable fad, and bench shows demanded certain conformation, the foxhounds in England were nondescript.

Another fad which has helped to add a family resemblance to the English foxhound is the cropping of the ears which originally seemed intended as a mark to distinguish them from other breeds. The keen nozzles and round heads, such as is found in "Rapture," "Potentate" and "Whitebird," have given way to the very objectionable skull and blocky jaw exhibited in the illustration of the present English foxhound.

While the English have, in a sense, invented a type for the foxhound within the last thirty years, the French have preserved a much more intelligent and attractive breed of hounds from an American standpoint.

As a limited space prevents the mention of many sportsmen who have made England famous it may be best to take up one who stands pre-eminently at the head of the list and to whom is due more credit for elevating the chase and per-

Type for the Country.

The English foxhound answers the purpose of the English foxhunter who hunts where the atmospheric and scenting conditions are usually good and the physical nature of the country admits of starting the fox from covert and riding

in chase. Though the young and the jealous try hard for his place; 'Tis Batchelor, always is first in the race, He beats them for nose and he beats them for pace."

The English have always required their hounds to pack very closely and maintained a strict discipline in the kennel. When such a keen sportsman as Grandy Berkley cuts out a hound for displaying too much individuality in the hunting field it is not to be wondered at that the intelligence of the English hound has been dwarfed along with the acute faculty of detecting and translating the minute particles of fox musk as our American foxhound is accustomed to do, but it is not for the American sportsman to disparage the performance of the English hound, but to take an object lesson from what has been accomplished by the English breeders in transforming a nondescript breed of deer-hounds and harriers into a fixed type that holds conformation with successive breeding.

Loss of Individuality.

By a systematic training the English have almost perfected field manners in the fox-hound, but in accomplishing this at the cost of his individuality, what has been a gain in form has been a loss in quality, deprecating nose, voice and speed. The tendency to breed to a fixed color and a certain expression of substance is a recent fashionable mistake, having only originated in England within the past forty years.

In order to fix such a type, a great many valuable foxhounds had to be discarded on account of their off color while others of inferior quality were retained in the kennel.

To find a foxhound that possesses form

The Father of Sport.

Thomas Assheton Smith was born at London when foxhunting was beginning to spread over England. In many respects he was one of the most remarkable men that England ever produced. First distinguishing himself at Eton in a fight with Lord Byron's rival, John Masters, he continued to out-class every man in physical courage and riding nerve until shortly before his death at the age of eighty-four in 1855.

Having actually hunted in the saddle for seventy years, his life is more or less identified with every sportsman in England during the latter part of the seventeenth and the first half of the eighteenth centuries.

Of this sportsman it has been said that no man in England dared follow him when the hounds were running fast over a broken country.

Upon the field who interrupted the hounds, which upon more than one occasion brought him to blows. He rode to cut down the field when the hounds were running, and was quick to rebuke the riders at a check wherever an occasion presented.

A favorite expression with him was: "Hold hard there, gentlemen! Where in the devil are you riding to? Do you think you can catch the fox by yourselves?"

The Best of His Day.

Time and time again he cut down the

fecting horsemanship than perhaps to any other.

Thomas Assheton Smith first commenced hunting at Sedbury Hill, and later shifted over with Hugo Meynell in Leicestershire, where he won his spurs

In the famous Billesdon-Cowpley run of 1800. The horse he rode on this occasion was purchased for twenty-six pounds, and later sold to Lord Clonbrock for two thousand dollars—a commentary on the pace he kept that memorable day. "Like Grantly Berkley, Mr. Smith was very strict with his hunt servants, and severe best riders in England, and once, in Lincolnshire, when pressed by the field, he put "Jack O'Lantern" over a log-back stile with a dangerous drop on the other side of it, and landing heavily in the road, left the field of pounded horsemen nursing a half dead man, who attempted to follow him.

At no time did the riding nerve of Thomas Assheton Smith ever desert him, and on some horses he knew, like "Ays-ton," the pigeon-toed boy, he would sail at a fence which could only be gotten over by a fall.

There was not a field in Leicestershire where he had not experienced a fall and to a young supporter of the chase who was always falling and hurting himself, Smith said, "Young man, you must learn how to fall before you pretend to ride."

At Ashby pastures the fox went away with the hounds at his heels and parallel to a black thorn hedge which screened them from view. The horsemen rode down a green lane by the side of the hedge. Suddenly a horse was heard rattling over gates and crashing through

hedges on the same side with hounds and some one remarked that a horse had thrown his rider and was running away. The illusion was soon dispelled by the hounds answering across the lane with "Tom Smith flying by their side."

Two Thousand Horsemen.

The greatest sporting event that ever happened in England was a field reception given in honor of Thomas Assheton Smith at Pillingston, at which two thousand horsemen participated in the hunt. The day was unfavorable for scent and the hounds failed to account for the fox, but there was the greatest collection of sportsmen and the grandest hunting scene the world will ever witness again.

When Mr. Smith died at Tedford, in his stables were fifty hunters and his kennels contained three hundred couples of foxhounds.

One can well imagine that foxhunting was in its glory when the "squire of Tedford" lived and that many who attempted to follow him.

"Have thought like courtly Chesterfield. Who, after a long chase o'er hills, dunes, bushes, And what not, though he rode beyond all price, Asked next day, 'If men ever hunted twice?'"

Railway Plans in Italy.

The French Bulletin at Milan states that the Italian ministry of public works and finance are drawing up the budget expenditures for State railways in the decade 1906-1916. It is estimated that during that period it will be necessary to spend about \$100,000,000 on doubling lines, enlarging stations, and other construction work. Among the stations to be rebuilt or enlarged are those at Milan, Rome, Naples, Bologna, Catania, Messina, Turin, Verona and Venice. A further sum of \$20,000,000 will be required for more rolling stock. It is also planned to spend \$50,000,000 during the next ten years to cope with the probable increase of traffic, bringing the total sum required up to \$200,000,000. The State railways administration is anxious to obtain a government loan of this amount.

American Drummer in Africa.

If all American exporters showed the same energy in selling their wares abroad that is shown by the agricultural machinery men, the United States would become the leading nation in foreign commerce. A South African journal says that "the energetic American drummer selling agricultural machinery is not satisfied with keeping his stock in a central storehouse, or of being a regular exhibitor at the shows, but is willing to endeavor to bring his machine or implement to the very gate of the farm. Wherever he can sufficiently engage the attention of the farmer, he gives an experimental demonstration of his machine's qualities, the inevitable result of a tour of this character being a large crop of orders, which more than repays for the heavy outlay incurred on transport, etc. In 1904, 54 per cent. of the farm implements and 88 per cent. of the agricultural machinery imported into South Africa came from the United States."

Cigars Before Breakfast.

"The proper time to test a cigar or smoke in the morning before breakfast," said a downtown tobaccoist yesterday. "Naturally, early morning smoking is not healthy, but it is very stimulating. Try it by smoking samples of your favorite brands in the early morning and you can depend upon your judgment."

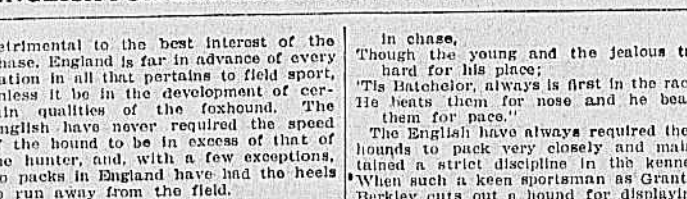
"Smoking among Pittsburgh women is on the increase, as the condition is evidenced by my trade. There is nothing startling in this because the same condition is found in every city and town in the country. Pittsburgh, notwithstanding the temperance example given by our inveterate men smokers, holds a low average of female smokers. The most expensive cigarettes I sell is a brand made especially for women. They cost 4 cents apiece, but contain the merest pinch of weed."

How the Topaz is Colored.

The finding of a blue topaz in Rhodesia is an interesting discovery. It is not, however, as has been stated in the papers, a new gem. For although the normal color of the topaz is yellow, a blue variety is by no means uncommon. The Shalimar stones, for example, have a bluish tint, while those from the Highlands of Scotland are of a deep blue color. The blue topaz of the jeweler is probably always an artificial product as regards its color. In 1895 a Parisian jeweler, Drunado, discovered that the yellow Brazilian topaz when moderately heated acquired a rose-plectic color. The stone is wrapped in German linen, which is then ignited. The resulting "burned topaz" is sometimes known as a "Brazilian ruby."

The blue topaz is sometimes known as a "Brazilian sapphire."—London Globe.

ENGLISH FOX HUNTING HOUND OF THE PRESENT DAY



English Hounds Slow.

So from an American standpoint the English foxhound is deficient, at least, in speed, while he is accepted by the English as the best type suited for a purpose; though it is generally acknowledged that the English foxhound of the present does not possess some at least of the sterling hunting qualities which distinguished his rugged ancestors.

The evolution has been slow, and the fixed type is destined to remain in favor for many years in a country so well suited to hunting foxes by the method employed.

The physical nature of the Shires, which first gave birth to fox-hunting, and will be the last to relinquish the sport, have gradually changed from a natural condition into a high state of cultivation; and by the clearing of forest and the destruction of covert, the necessity for trailing the fox up to his sleeping quarters has been done away with. Consequently the English foxhound is not required to stoop to a cold scent, but is carried into the field and sent into covert with view of starting the fox from the bed.

In order to bring the pack well to hand and hunt them as a unit it was necessary to employ the services of whips whose business is to round up the pack and quell any riotous disposition on the part of the hounds which are carried to covert with almost a military discipline.

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FRENCH FOX HOUND OF THE PRESENT.

Do Your Duty.

Your attention is called to the fact that you can buy from one-fourth to one-half less price at ROUNTREE'S store, No. 703 East Broad Street, near Seventh Street.

This applies to all styles Trunks, Bags and Cases; also, Ladies' Shopping Bags, Pocket-Books, Steamer Rugs and Blankets, and all kinds of Leather Novelties.

Every article of the latest style and best make. Guaranteed. Do not fail to see the Roller-Tray and Wardrobe Trunks and Lever Lock Buckle Trunk Strap. These are wonders.

All odd goods and old styles, of which they have a limited supply from time to time, and are sold as such, and at one-half price of what you could buy elsewhere. What they term odd and old are regular with other stores.

They manufacture from the cheapest to the finest, and sell direct to you; therefore, if you do not buy from them you lose more than they do.

What you save and what you would pay elsewhere makes their goods less than half price to you.

Do not fail to visit their store before you make your selection. Whether you purchase or not you will be welcomed and well paid by seeing the largest and most modern variety displayed in any Trunk and Leather Goods store in this or any other city.

A call is a duty you owe to your city's home enterprise, employing over 300 workmen, who should merit your encouragement.

**Trunks - - - from 65c to \$65.00
Bags and Cases from 30c to \$30.00**

Every article guaranteed to be better and at a much less price than you can buy elsewhere.

They have everything for travelers' use; make special work and do all kinds of repairing.